

GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL

Cottage Grove's Katie Warhol gets a little canine help while playing Pokemon Go during a walk down Sixth Street. During its first full week of play, the game drew players who could be seen congregating in pairs or small groups or playing alone using their smart phones in various local hotspots. The game, which was released on July 6 and became an instant phenomenon, offers over 100 types of characters that can be virtually "caught," and Bohemia Park and the Humane Society's This n' That store are rumored sights of much game activity. Players say the game encourages exercise and social activity as they battle it out or work together to catch as many Pokemon as possible.



photo by Jon Stinnett

SYMPHONY

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to help choreograph the movements of his three dancers. They would add a Cottage Grove flavor, with scenes reminiscent of Buster Keaton, covered bridges, carousels and gold mining.

The Symphony program featured a wider, more eclectic range of music than last year's performance, with a tune by Cole Porter and a Sousa march complementing a viola performance by star soloist and 19-year old Maia Hoffman. The familiar jump of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" closed the show to a round of cheers.

The City of Cottage Grove sold buttons and raffle tickets to help finance this year's show, in addition to several sponsor tables. Funds raised from last year's performance also helped offset the \$30,000 or so it takes to bring a symphony to town. Afterward, City Manager Richard Meyers said he thought the City "broke even" but did not raise enough money to contribute toward next year's performance. Still, Meyers lauded the evening's events.

"It was a great night," he said. "Having the Symphony start a little later made the timing just about right, and what a beautiful sunset!"



photo by Jon Stinnett

Symphony bassist Evan Pardi helps Braxton Handsaker pluck a few notes at the instrument petting zoo.

OFFBEAT

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African-American crewmembers. A provincial jury made up of white people whose familiarity with black people consists entirely of racist pulp-mag stories about savage black rapists attacking pure white maidens will be far more likely to convict such a man in the absence of any real evidence of guilt. And such a fall-guy just happens to be handy, so with a little help from the LAPD's jailhouse interrogation squad, they fabricate what they need.

So, is this what happened? We can't really know for sure. But it seems very likely. The motive

was certainly there.

The U.S. War Department

But the agency with the most compelling motivation to crucify Folkes was the U.S. War Department. Here's why:

Imagine, for a moment, that you are an 18-year-old single woman, and it's early 1943 — close to the darkest hour of the war. You're doing your best to be brave, and everyone must make sacrifices, so you're riding trains unchaperoned and walking to your home-front manufacturing job in the dark by yourself. But it's OK, because you feel safe with all the uniformed soldiers

and sailors around. Strong and brave and confident, they represent security to you, and you feel sure that if you should ever need anything, you could ask one of them to help you out.

Then suddenly you hear about a story from the West Coast: A U.S. Marine has been accused of having raped and murdered a pretty girl just like you, in a Pullman sleeper car just like the ones you're riding in regularly, all by yourself, on long war-related trips. Suddenly you're looking at those soldiers and sailors in a completely different way — as potential threats rather than as sources of comfort. And every other pretty

woman in the country is doing the same. They're avoiding rail travel. When forced to take an overnight train, they're arriving at their destinations exhausted and unrested. Worse yet, other low-quality men in uniform are starting to jump on this criminal bandwagon. There's another assault, and another. Soon women are refusing to travel alone on rail cars and wondering if they're safe on the streets. Morale, at this most key point in the war effort, collapses.

And it all could have been avoided if ... if the crime had been committed not by a uniformed soldier, but by, say, an African-American railroad

cook. It's more of a random sort of threat; a black train cook climbing into a Pullman berth with a passenger would be so unusual that people would view it as a freak incident rather than a new threat to guard against.

Looked at this way, railroading Folkes was almost a patriotic duty, and his subsequent execution wasn't much different from a death on a battlefield. It may even have saved lives.

But the price of that non-outcome was a grave injustice, an innocent man killed and a guilty one not only set free, but released from the duty assignment that would likely have cost him his life. And in fact, out of all

the military personnel in that "murder car" on the night Martha James was killed, the only one who survived the war was Pvt. Harold Wilson.

(Sources: Geier, Max G. The Color of Night. Corvallis: OSU Press, 2015; Barker, Neil. "Murder on No. 15..." Oregon Historical Quarterly, fall 2011)

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